

MULCHING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 484



MULCHING

Mulching is applying a protective cover of plant residue or other suitable material not produced on the site to the soil surface.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used to help control erosion, protect crops, conserve moisture, prevent compaction/crusting, reduce runoff, and help control weeds. The practice is utilized on sites subject to erosion and high runoff that need the additional protection from material brought in from off the site. The material may be

manufactured and commercially available or it may be hay or crop residue hauled to the site and applied.

This is a high input practice used primarily on construction sites. However, the practice is often used in production of specialty crops including grapes, fruit, and vegetables.

Additional information including standards and specifications are on file in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.